

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. ^{B-}4667

1. Name

Historic 1501-1521 North Bethel Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1501-1521 North Bethel Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of twelve two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Queen Anne-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and stepped brick cornices were built in 1893 by William J. Clendenin, a prolific builder of both three-story and working class houses in East Baltimore. Most of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted. After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal and stepped-back bricks became one of the more popular alternatives, particularly for inexpensive housing.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide (14' wide for the end houses) and occupy lots 108'6" deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and have been painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a continuous sheet metal and stepped brick cornice consisting of a sheet metal crown molding set above two rows of stretcher bricks and then a decorative band created by a row of recessed stretchers punctuated by three rows of slightly projecting, yet progressively recessed headers. The plain frieze area beneath consists of three, and then five rows of slightly projecting stretchers.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels consisting of a double row of headers, with plain tympanums. The sills are wood. Original 2/2 sash remain on only a few of the houses. The doorways have single-light transoms and show a variety of replacement door types. The houses sit on fairly high basements. Each front door is reached by four concrete steps.

C. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates 1893

Builder/Architect William J. Clendenin

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by William J. Clendenin, a fairly prolific Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. In this particular case Clendenin also built the three-story, three-bay wide (15'5") houses on the west side of Broadway in this block, and the two-story, three-bay wide houses (14'10") on the north side of Oliver, east of Bethel.

Clendenin sold the houses on the east side of Bethel St. for \$650 (with \$36 ground rents) to mostly German owner-occupants; he sold the 14'-wide corner store/residences at either end of the block for \$770 (with a \$42 ground rent). In contrast Clendenin sold an 18'-wide Broadway end building for \$3,500 (with a \$72 ground rent). Most of the Bethel St. buyers were German and Irish-Americans and many received their mortgages from the Baltic Permanent Building and Loan Association.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date June 2000

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

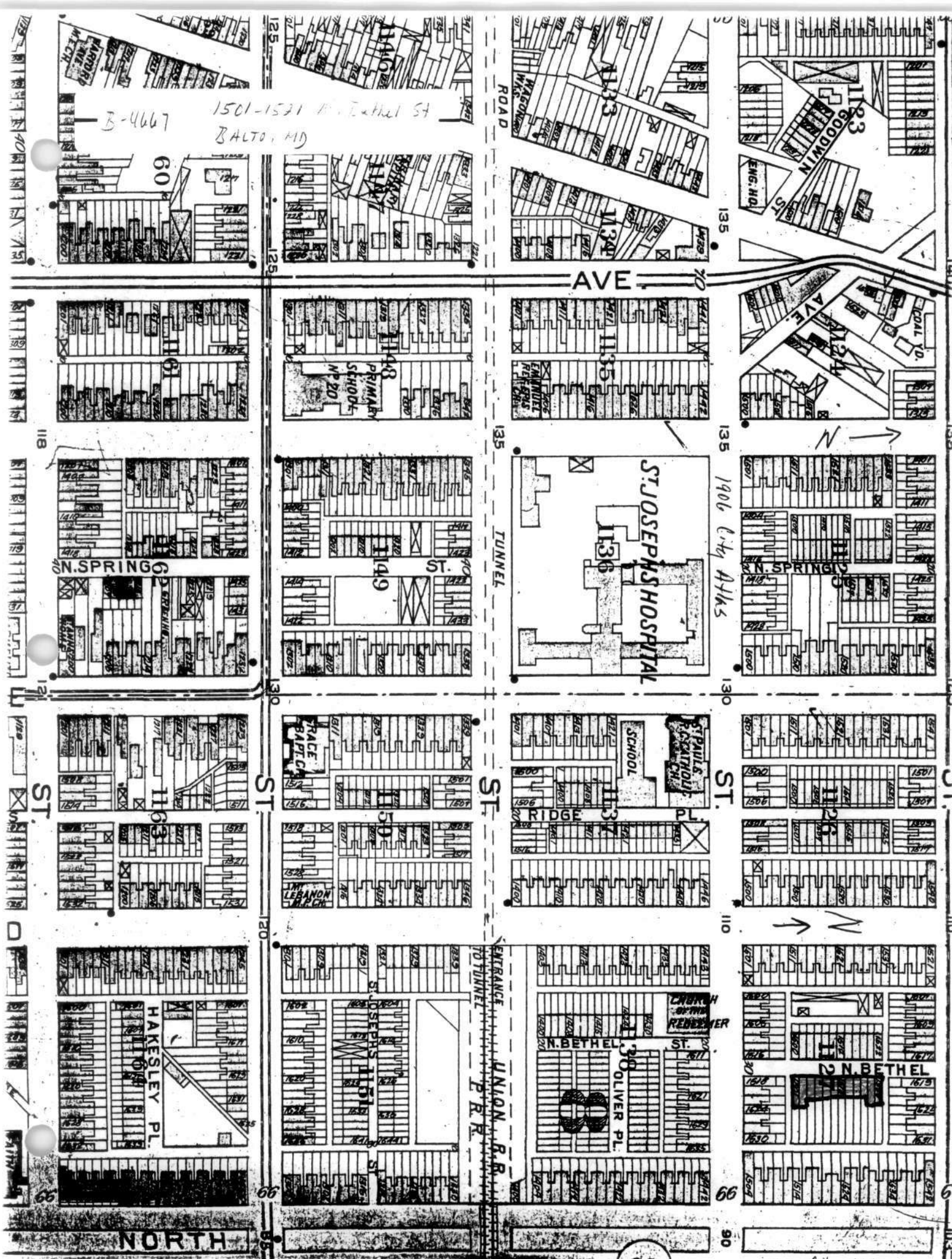
city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

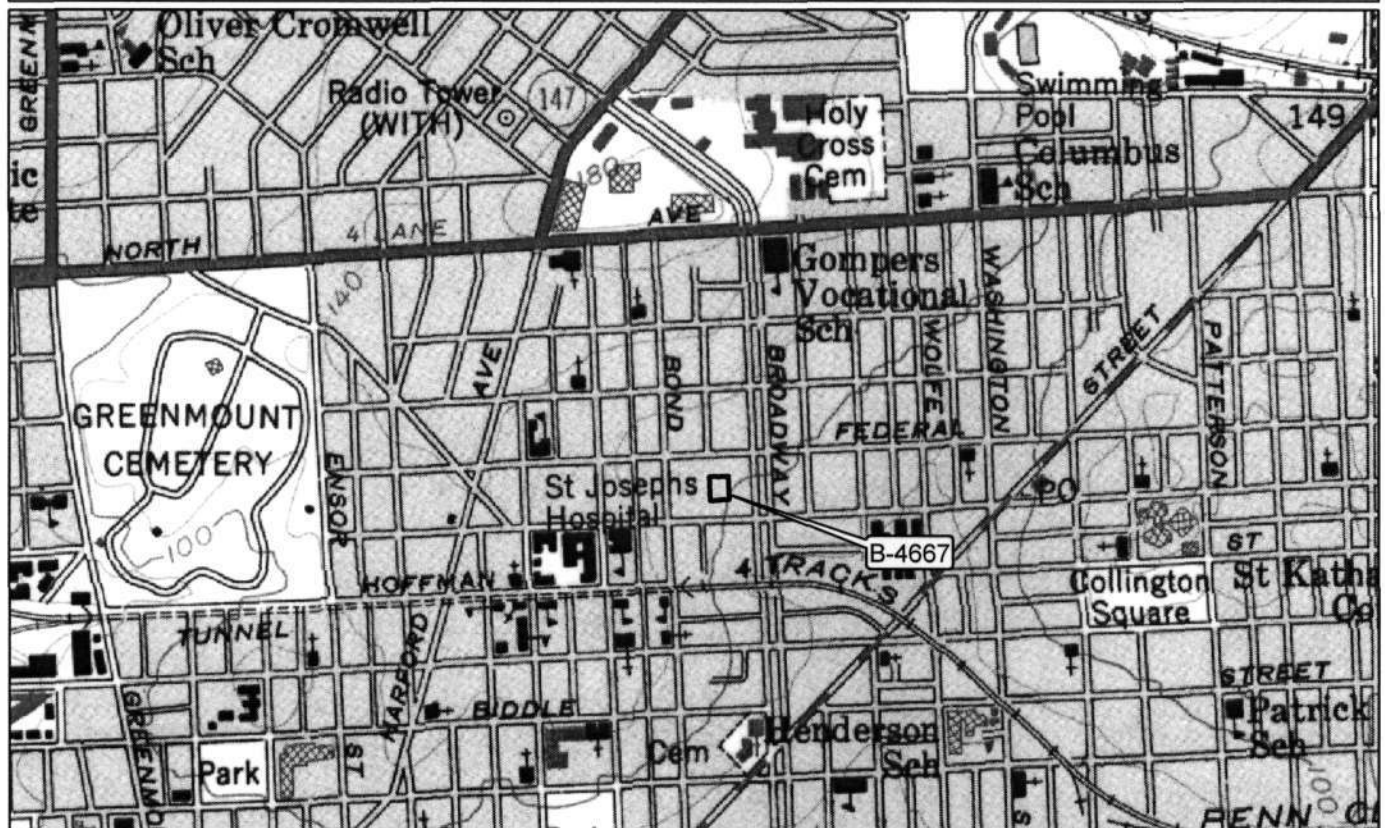
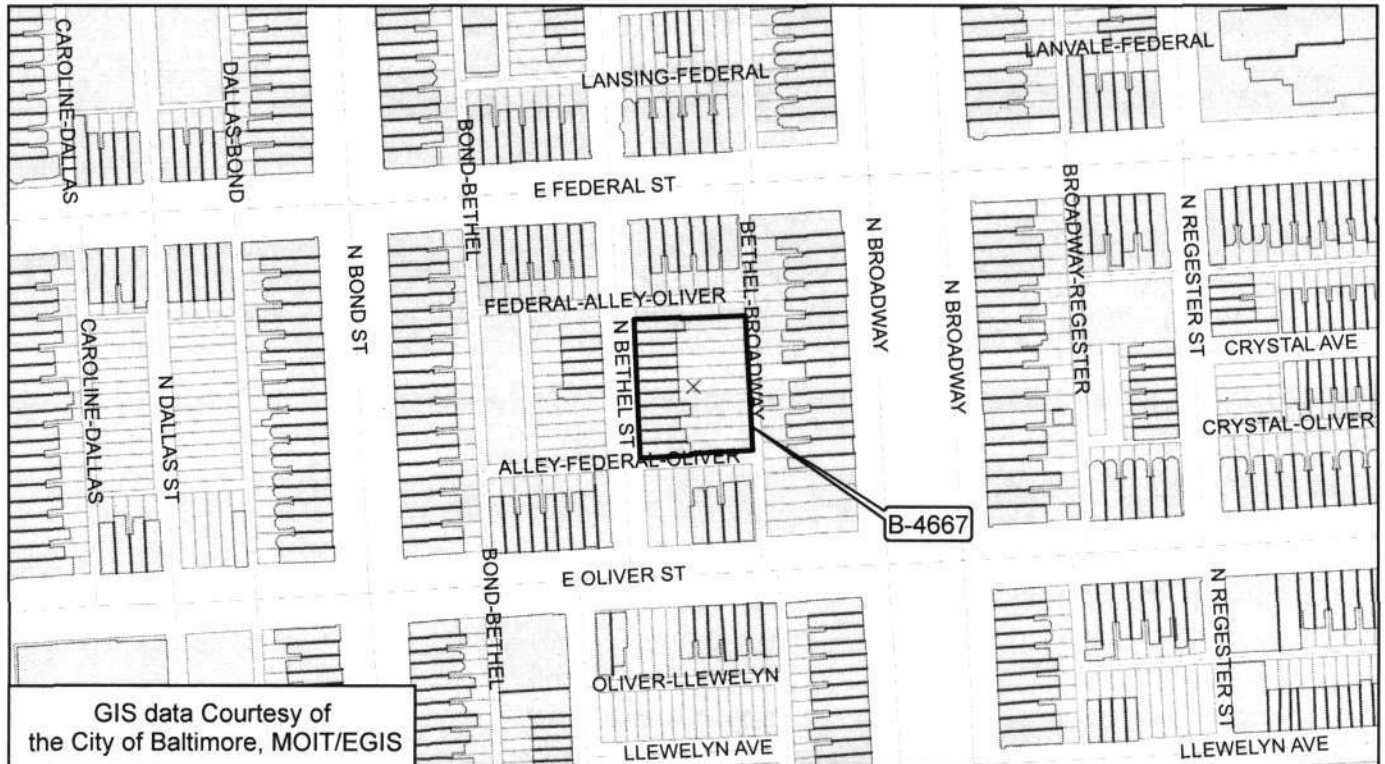
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-4667
 1501-1521 N. Bethel Street
 Block 1127, Lots 074-084
 Baltimore City
 Baltimore East Quad.





1501-1521 Bethel

B-4667

1501-1521 N Bethel St.

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

11/96

100

[04]115 0211 N N N 12 MD SAPO

1/2



1505 Bethel

B-4667

1505 N. Jewel St.

BALTO. MD

W. Field

11/96

2/2

100

1030115 0211 N N N 12